

The Cost of Trash

:30 second Radio PSA

Originally recorded at WATD by members of the South Shore Recycling Cooperative (Bob Griffin of Marshfield & Claire Sullivan of SSRC)

B: Do you know what it costs to make your trash go away? If you're a typical American, you toss out a ton of trash each year, at home, work, school, ball games... * In the good old days, it all went in the dump on the edge of town. But they were closed 'cause they were poisoning our water.

C: Now your trash is trucked to high tech landfills and waste combustors, and guess what? They're expensive to build and run, and we don't have enough to manage all our discards. **

B: If you live in a town where you pay only for what you throw out, you waste a lot less than you used to.*** But no matter where you live, you're paying for disposal, in your property tax, trash fee, or rent.

C: The fifteen towns in the South Shore Recycling Cooperative spent about \$17 million last year to haul and dispose household trash, an average of \$150/ton, and that's just the tip of the iceberg. Whether it's burned or buried, plenty of good stuff that could have been recycled is gone to waste. ****

B: Recycling saves money and more. A little effort does make a big difference.

Sources:

* [U.S. EPA Office of Solid Waste](#)

** [Mass. DEP Solid Waste Master Plan 2002 Update](#)

*** ["Pay as you Throw : Unit-based Pricing for Municipalities"](#)

**** 2003 Tellus Institute Report, ["Waste Reduction Program Assessment and Analysis for Massachusetts"](#)